

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /126 W

----- 062741

R 271310Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8515

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 3039

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SF

SUBJECT: VORSTER CRITICIZES USE OF BLACK SPEAKERS

AT WHITE POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

REF: PRETORIA A-158

1. AT AUGUST 24 PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS HOME, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID THAT IF TREND TO INVITE NON-WHITE LEADERS TO WHITE PARTY CONVENTIONS CONTINUED, SAG MIGHT ACT TO HALT IT. ALTHOUGH VORSTER AVOIDED REFERENCE TO SPECIFIC EVENT, HE OBVIOUSLY REACTING TO UNITED PARTY (UP) TRANSVAAL CONGRESS LAST WEEK AT WHICH COLORED, INDIAN, AND AFRICAN LEADERS SPOKE (REFAIR). VORSTER SAID SAG MIGHT, IF NECESSARY, CONSIDER AMENDING PROHIBITION OF POLITICAL INTER-FERENCE ACT, WHICH OUTLAWS MULTI-RACIAL POLITICAL PARTIES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS'S QUESTIONS, VORSTER INDICATED HE DID NOT OBJECT TO LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR "ANYBODY ELSE" CONSULTING NON-WHITE LEADERS. BUT SPEECHES AT POLITICAL PARTY CONGRESSES DO NO, ACCORDING TO VORSTER, CONSTITUTE "CONSULTATION." VORSTER ALSO STATED HIS REMARKS DID NOT APPLY TO GROUPS, SUCH

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AS VERLIGTRE ACTION, WHICH ARE NOT POLITICAL PARTIES.

3. UP LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF SUBSEQUENTLY
CLAIMED UP INVITATIONS TO NON-WHITE SPEAKERS LEAD TO
BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RACIAL GROUPS AND SAID
VORSTER "SEEMS UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CONSULTA-
TION AND INTERFERENCE." PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERS
HAVE STATED THE PARTY HAS NO INTENTION OF WITHDRAWING
INVITATIONS TO HOMELAND LEADERS TO SPEAK AT ITS NATIONAL
CONVENTION EARLY NEXT MONTH.
SMITH

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